Borough of Bridgwater.

With the Borough Surveyor's Compliments.

Municipal Offices,
Town Hall,
Bridgwater.

March 6th. 1906.

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THE THIRTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION OF BRIDGWATER

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

PREPARED BY

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS, Medical Officer.

FRANCIS PARR, A.M.I.C.E., Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

BRIDGWATER:

Printed and Published by PAGE & SON, Fore Street.

1906.

The Thirty-third Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Condition of Bridgwater

For the Year ending 1905.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to present my Annual Report for the year 1905.

Taking into consideration the excess in the number of births over deaths, and allowing for removals, etc., etc., I estimate the population at 15,600.

STATISTICS.

Area 923 Acres. Population 15,600.
Inhabited Houses 3752.

	1904.	1905.
Birth Rate	31·5	30·0
Death Rate	16·8	18·7
Zymotic Rate	1·7	1·9
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births	115·3	115·1

There were 292 deaths registered in the Borough during the past year, as against 265 in 1904, representing an Annual Death Rate of 18·7 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Of these 292 deaths, 20 occurred in the Bridgwater Infirmary, 39 in the Union Workhouse, and 1 in the Isolation Hospital. Deducting these 60 deaths, 232 remain, representing an Annual Rate of Mortality of 14·8, as against 12·8 in 1904.

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000.	District.	
1904.	15,600.	265.	16.8.	Western	103
				Workhouse	40
				Eastern	98
				Infirmary	24
1905.	15,600.	292.	18·7.	Western	150
				Workhouse	39
				Eastern	82
				Hospital	20
				Isolation Hospital	1

The number of Births throughout England is becoming less every year, and in this District I find that 13 less Births were registered during 1905 than in 1904.

Of the various causes of Death, 13 resulted from Phthisis, 56 from Pneumonia and Bronchitis, 14 from Heart Disease, 8 from Accidents, 3 Suicides, and in 19 cases Inquests were held.

Infant Mortality remains much the same. 57 Deaths as against 57 in 1904. The Rate of Mortality per 1000 Births is 115·1, as against 115·3 in 1904.

From the seven chief Epidemic Diseases, 32 Deaths were registered, as against 25 in 1904. These Deaths resulted from what I may term the "minor" forms of Zymotic Disease, *viz.*, Whooping Cough and Measles, no less than 10 Deaths were registered as occasioned by the former Disease, and 12 from the latter. Diarrhœa caused 16 Deaths, Diphtheria 3, and Scarlet Fever 7.

Administrative Work.

With reference to the Administrative Sanitary Work of the Borough, I have the honor to report that during the year ending 31st December, 1905, 236 Notices have been issued, as against 301 in the previous year, which may be classified as follows:

Notices brought before the Health Committee	113
Miscellaneous Notices	123
Total ...	236

The Notices brought before the Health Committee have reference to a total of 253 defects as follows :

	Reported.	Abated.	In hand.
Defective drains to w.c.'s and gullies	45	45	
Defective iron traps ...	19	18	1
Defective and dirty condition of w.c.'s	19	18	1
Defective trough closets ...	10	9	1
Premises without proper drainage	5	4	1
Defective drains	9	8	1
Closets without flushing apparatus	11	6	5
Want of proper w.c. accommodation	1		1
Defective paving to courts, passages, &c.	11	9	2
Overcrowding	8	6	2
Defective eaves, gutters, and fallpipes	43	39	4
Defective and dangerous chimneys	2	2	
Dangerous walls	4	3	1
Defective roofs	6	6	
Defective floors to dwelling houses	7	7	
Houses unfit for habitation ...	1	1	
Accumulation of ashes, manure, &c.	21	21	
Dangerous building ...	3	3	
Unsuitable building used for stable	1	1	
Defective waste from scullery sink	9	7	2
Cleansing and limewhiting after infectious disease ...	13	13	

Dairies and Milkshops Order.

I have not received any complaints as to the condition of these premises, and on the inspections made from time to time have found the premises clean and wholesome.

Slaughter Houses.

These have been inspected three times during the past year, and so far as the buildings are concerned, cleanliness has been better maintained. 16 Notices, relating principally to cleaning and limewhiting, have been served on the owners and occupiers, and the defects have in every case received attention. Last year I called attention to the close proximity of these buildings to dwelling houses, and can only reiterate the warning then given. The owners and occupiers should, in my opinion, taking into consideration the privileges they enjoy, take especial pains to avoid any nuisance arising from either the cleanliness of the premises or the carrying on of business.

Workshops and Factories Act, 1901.

With these are included bakehouses, and with regard to these, two general inspections have been made during the year, and out of which 14 notices dealing with repairs and whitewashing have been served and have been attended to.

With regard to the Factories and Workshops, inspections have been made, out of which 5 notices have been issued dealing with cleansing, general sanitary defects and want of water. 3 of these cases are abated and 2 still in hand.

Food and Drugs Act.

During the year under consideration 46 samples have been taken, *viz:* 18 of Milk, 10 of Lard, 8 of Butter, 1 of Margarine, 4 of Coffee, 4 of Cheese, 1 of Ice Cream. All these were submitted to the Borough Analyst and were pronounced to be genuine except one of Butter, but that was very slightly adulterated, certainly not sufficient to carry the case any further.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act.

In the year just passed there has been a wonderful increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases notified under the above Act. The character of the disease has been of an exceedingly mild type, and owing to this it is feared that many cases escaped observation entirely until too late to do any real good. It was principally confined to young children, for the records shew that about 80 per cent. of those attacked were under 13 years of age.

With the records of the progress of the disease before me, I cannot allow this Report to go before you without once again drawing the Burgesses' attention to the fact that

provision has been made for the due isolation of such cases of illness, and that if the parents and guardians of suffering children would only avail themselves of the benefit thus provided I feel assured I should not have notified to me such cases as the following :

4	in one house,	extending	from	March	30 to	May 13.
5	,,	,,	,,	April	19 ,,	Nov. 29.
4	,,	,,	,,	May	30 ,,	Oct. 29.
5	,,	,,	,,	Sept.	27 ,,	Oct. 4.
3	,,	,,	,,	Oct.	7 ,,	Oct. 14.

I now submit particulars of cases notified under the Act for this year.

	1905.	1904.
Diphtheria	20	5
Enteric Fever	1	1
Puerperal Fever	1	
Typhoid Fever	1	
Scarlet Fever	263	8
	286	14

Table No. 1. As affecting the Sexes and Districts of the Town :

	Diphtheria.		Scarlet Fever.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
On the West Side of the River	3	10	57	70
On the East Side of the River	3	4	54	62

Table No. 2. As affecting the Ages of those attacked.

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.
Under 3 Years of Age	1	12
,, 4 ,,	1	13
,, 5 ,,	1	17
,, 6 ,,	2	31
,, 7 ,,	4	22
,, 8 ,,	3	22
,, 9 ,,		18
,, 10 ,,		21
,, 11 ,,	4	22
,, 12 ,,	1	15
,, 13 ,,		14
,, 14 ,,	1	10
,, 15 ,,	1	4
,, 20 ,,		10
Adults	1	12
Total	20	243

The other 3 cases, *viz.*, 1 each of Puerperal Fever, Enteric and Typhoid Fever, were all adults.

Out of the 263 cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, 34 cases only were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

The total number of cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever amount together to 263 for the whole year, and the number of fatal cases amount to 9, *viz.*, 2 in Diphtheria and 7 in Scarlet Fever, a rate of mortality equal to ·58 per 1000 of the population, and occurring in children between the ages of 2 and 7 years.

New Streets and Buildings.

During the past year 110 plans affecting New Streets and Buildings were submitted for the consideration of the Council and received its approval. The various descriptions may be summarized as follows :

Dwelling Houses	81
Alterations and Additions	12
Offices and Shops	8
Public Buildings	1
Elementary School Buildings	2
Workshops, including Alterations and Additions	2
Sundry Small Buildings	1
New Sewers and Roads	3
	110

House Inspection.

I have to report that 46 Dwelling Houses and 3 Shops and Offices have been erected and completed during the year and were found on examination to be carried out in accordance with the Bye Laws.

Rainfall.

As in past years tables are appended shewing the Rainfall for the year just concluded, at the Pumping Station at Ashford and at the Nurseries, Bridgwater, the particulars of which have been kindly supplied by Mr. Henry Corder. We also append the result of our observations for the last 5 years.

With regard to the Ashford returns it will be seen that no rain fell on 210 days, as against 168 days in 1904. August was the wettest month as against February in the previous year, and May was the dryest as against June in 1904. In August rain was registered on 19 days, the greatest fall being on the 16th and amounting to 2·05 inches.

With regard to the Town returns, practically no rain fell on 194 days as against 185 days in 1904. During the last year June was the wettest month as against February, and May the dryest as against June.

Month.	ASHFORD.				BRIDGWATER.			
	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which ·1 or more Rain fell.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which ·1 or more Rain fell.
	Inches	Depth	Date		Inches	Depth	Date	
January ...	1·03	·28	9	10	·83			12
February ...	·96	·40	26	10	1·00			14
March ...	3·78	·80	11	21	3·88			23
April ...	2·12	·58	11	15	2·23			16
May ...	·44	·32	1	3	·13			3
June ...	3·38	·70	7	19	4·60			21
July ...	1·36	·70	1	9	·71			9
August ...	5·42	2·05	16	19	4·50			22
September ...	1·27	·24	9	11	·88			8
October ...	1·16	·35	8	9	1·80	·78	31	9
November ...	3·20	·75	1	18	2·78			22
December ...	1·08	·22	8	11	·86			12
Total ...	25·20	2·05	16 Aug	155	24·20	·78	31 Oct	171

Rainfall for previous 5 years.

	Ashford.	Bridgwater.
1901.	25·16	23·17
1902.	25.20	22·79
1903.	40·31	37·92
1904.	27·22	25·58
1905.	25·20	24·20

General Remarks.

The year 1905 has witnessed a sharp outbreak of Scarlet Fever amongst us, particulars of which have been placed before you in this Report, and speaking as Medical Officer of Health I do wish to impress on those in charge of young children, the real and important necessity of isolating those attacked as soon as possible. I know there is great difficulty in doing this in your own homes, so why not take advantage of the building prepared by the Town Council for such cases?

This year further alterations have been carried out to the Building, providing a complete set of Rooms for the Caretaker, altogether clear of the Hospital proper, and a Hot Water Supply has also been provided which is always in use. A portable Bath has been obtained and it is considered that the alterations and additions will provide additional comforts both for those in charge of the Building, and those who unfortunately have to use it.

Owing to the heavy rain storms in August two parts of the Town were flooded for a short time, *viz.*, Durleigh Road between West Street and Northfields, and also North Street where Victoria Road and Alexandra Road join in. The matter was at once most fully considered by the Council who, thinking the North Street case the more important, have given instructions for a new intercepting and outfall Sewer to be constructed through Mount Street and Northgate, discharging into the River at Valetta Place. It is thought that the relief given to the existing outfall on the West Bank near the Bridge will materially benefit the Durleigh Road District, and it is hoped that the present year will see the new Sewer constructed.

Reverting once more to the outbreak of Scarlet Fever, the greatest centre of the disease was Albert Street and its Courts. Unfortunately in August the main Sewer was found badly obstructed and special means had to be adopted to clear it. On a report of the condition of this Sewer being laid before the Council, instructions were given to have it removed and a new pipe Sewer with Manholes, &c., constructed, and this will also be put in hand this year.

With the beginning of the year, possession was taken of the new Sheds, Stores, Engine House, &c., provided at the Town Council Depot in Clare Street, and it is hoped shortly that the new Fire Station will be completed and the Brigade installed in its new home.

Before closing this Report I should like once again to issue a warning about the accumulations of Ashes and Garden Refuse and also the too frequent practice of erecting Small Sheds for Poultry and Birds too close to the Dwelling Houses. There is room for improvement in both instances which can be easily done and would undoubtedly be found to be well worth doing.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and Previous Years in the Bridgwater Sub-District.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district	
				Under 1 year		All ages.					
		Number.	Rate *	Number.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number.	Rate *			Number.	Rate *
1895	15281	461	33·0	55	117·7	303	21·5	63		303	21·5
1896	15490	497	36·1	65	138·0	318	24·2	57		318	24·2
1897	15545	511	34·9	50	100·2	293	20·2	54		293	20·2
1898	15812	531	36·2	59	115·9	264	18·2	59		264	18·2
1899	15862	525	34·3	54	106·02	309	21·6	64		309	21·6
1900	15900	533	36·7	69	128·3	292	19·7	62		292	19·7
1901	16014	531	33·8	56	108·7	293	18·8	56		293	18·8
1902	16214	591	36·4	68	115·0	296	18·2	46	4	296	18·2
1903	16214	507	31·2	58	114·3	267	16·4	53	29	267	16·4
1904	16414	512	31·3	59	115·2	274	16·6	64	30	274	16·6
Averages for years 1895-1904.	15874	519	32·6	59	113·6	290	18·2	57	6	290	18·2
1905	16414	495	30·1	57	115·1	300	18·2	60	24	300	18·2

* Calculated at per 1000 of estimated Population.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1905 and previous Years in the Bridgwater Sub-District.

BRIDGWATER SUB-DISTRICT.				
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895	15281	461	303	55
1896	15490	497	318	65
1897	15545	511	293	50
1898	15812	531	264	59
1899	15862	525	309	54
1900	15900	533	292	69
1901	16014	531	293	56
1902	16214	591	296	68
1903	16214	507	267	58
1904	16414	512	274	59
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904	15874	519	290	59
1905	16414	495	300	57

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905 in the Bridgwater Sub-District.

	At all ages.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	Wembdon.	Durleigh.	Cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria ..	20	3	16	1		1		5
Scarlet Fever ..	243	42	179	16	6	17	3	29
Enteric Fever ..	2			1	1			
Puerperal Fever	1			1				
Totals ..	266	45	195	19	7	18	3	34

Table shewing CAUSES OF, and AGES AT DEATH, during the Year 1905, in the District of the Bridgwater Sub-District.

	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Wembdon.	Chilton Trinity.	Durleigh.	Deaths in Public Institutions
Measles	13	1	11	1						1	
Scarlet Fever	7		4	3							
Whooping Cough	10	6	3			1					
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	4		1	3				1			2
Diarrhœa	16	9	4				3				1
Enteritis	4	2				1	1				1
Phthisis	13			1	3	8	1				1
Cancer	14					7	7	1			2
Bronchitis	31	6	4			6	15		1		2
Pneumonia	25	5	5	1	1	6	7				8
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	5					2	3				3
Premature Birth	11	11									
Heart Diseases	14			1	1	2	10				2
Accidents	8	2	3	1		2					3
Suicides	3					3					
All other Causes	122	15	4	4	6	36	57	3	1		35
	300	57	39	15	11	74	104	5	2	1	60

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905 in the Bridgwater Sub-District.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months	11-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
Measles ...																1	1
Whooping Cough ...				1			1						1		2	1	6
Diarrhœa, all forms							1	1	1	2			1		1	2	9
Enteritis (*Not Tuberculous*)									1	1							2
Premature Birth ...	11																11
Tuberculous Peritonitis (Tabes Mesenterica)									1								1
Convulsions ...	1	1				1	2	1	2	2							10
Bronchitis ...						1	2				3						6
Pneumonia ...						1				1		2		1			5
Suffocation, overlaying	1								1								2
Other Causes ...	1								2			1					4
All Causes ...	14	1		1	16	3	6	2	8	6	3	3	2	1	3	4	57

Births in the Year { Legitimate, 473. Illegitimate, 22.

BIRTHS IN THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

DURING THE YEAR 1905.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
Bridgwater	124	128	118	111	481

Rate per 1000—30·8.

DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Bridgwater	128	128	132	106	494

Rate per 1000—31·5.

PORT OF BRIDGWATER.

I have much pleasure in submitting Report on the work of this Authority for the year ending December 31st, 1905, first of all submitting the yearly returns shewing the Numbers and Tonnage of Sailing and Steam Vessels belonging to the Port of Bridgwater.

	1905.	1904.
Number of Sailing Vessels	75	75
Net Tonnage of same	4647 tons	4665 tons
Number of Steam Vessels	11	11
Net Tonnage of same	620 tons	599 tons

Hereinunder we submit returns shewing the Number and Tonnage of Vessels entering the Port of Bridgwater during the year ending the 31st day of December, 1905.

		With Cargoes.				In Ballast.			
		Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Coastwise	British ...	1294	73958	544	42243	105	4859	15	949
	Foreign ...	1	42	.....	.....	5	615	.....	.....
Foreign	British ...	9	697	1	487	1	55	.....	... ...
	Foreign ...	24	5610	13	4566	2	341	.....	.....

The following return gives the totals of both British and Foreign Ships and Tonnage of all classes throughout the years 1904 and 1905.

	1905.		1904.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British ...	1969	123,248	2134	130,742
Foreign ...	45	11,174	52	12,036

The General Statistics of the Sanitary work may be summed up as follows :—

Number of Vessels inspected	...	1597
Number of Sanitary Defects	...	10

The details of above Defects which were reported are as follows :—

Nature of Defect.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Dirty Forecastle ...	. .	2	2
Dirty W.C. ...	...	4	4
Damp Forecastle ...	...	2	2
Bad Water ...	...	2	2
			10

During the year 1905 the general health of the Port has been very good. No case of illness has been reported to us, nor any deaths, whether by accident or otherwise.

Your obedient Servants,

FRANCIS JNO. C. PARSONS,
Medical Officer of Health.

FRANCIS PARR,
Sanitary Inspector.